TOWN OF WILSON'S MILLS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Fleta Byrd, Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett, Councilmembers Carolyn Dobbin, David McGowan, and Tim Brown.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator/Clerk Leighanna Worley and Deputy Clerk Emily Matthews.

ABSENT: Councilmember Randy Jernigan

CONVOCATION: Mayor Byrd declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

PLEDGE Mayor Byrd led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

INVOCATION: Mayor Byrd gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Byrd asked for the approval of the agenda. She requested to table the approval of the minutes for the Special Meeting on November 3, 2022. Mayor Byrd also added agenda item 6f(ii) "Police Vehicle Report."

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Byrd asked for any comments or corrections to the minutes for the Regular Town Council Meeting for October 17, 2022.

Regular Town Council Meeting- October 17, 2022: A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2022, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Council Meeting – November 3, 2022: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to table the Special Council Meeting Minutes until December 19, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

1st OPEN FORUM Mayor Byrd opened the 1st Public Forum at 6:35pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 1st Open Forum at 6:36pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS

MAYOR FLETA BYRD: Mayor Byrd said she has attended several meetings in the last month including a meeting for future transport needs for the town on October 21st. She also attended the RC2 graduation where Town Administrator Worley and Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham graduated. She said they created a network to get help from in the future and she is proud of this accomplishment. Mayor Byrd said she also attended a TJCOG meeting on November 2nd and a Mayor Association meeting on November 17th.

Council Approval of 2023 Holiday Schedule: Deputy Clerk Emily Matthews said there was an error in the Holiday Schedule, the schedule was titled as 2022 rather than 2023 and the dates for the 2023 Christmas holidays were listed incorrectly. She stated those errors will be corrected before posting the schedule at Town Hall for the public.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Approval of 2023 Dates and Times for Council and Planning Board Meetings:

Deputy Clerk Emily Matthews said there was an error on this schedule as well and the December Council Metting date is incorrect. She stated the error will be corrected before posting the schedule at Town Hall for the public.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Leighanna Worley:

Town Administrator Worley referenced the resolution in Council's packets and said the resolution needs to be adopted by all municipalities that are involved with the Neuse River Trail. Mayor Byrd asked who was doing the study and Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham said the study is being done by Upper Coastal Plain. Councilmember Brown asked for the projected cost of the study and Mrs. Oldham said she is unsure, but the town was recently approved for a grant to help with the cost of a pedestrian and bike path and there are other grants that can help with the cost as well. Councilmember Brown asked if there is a projected completion date and Mrs. Oldham said it is projected to be complete in 2025.

Resolution Supporting the Neuse River Trail Feasibility Study

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Dobbin to adopt the Resolution Supporting the Neuse River Trail Feasibility Study. Motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Plan Update – Fee Schedule:

Ms. Worley referenced the fee schedule in Council's packets and said this is not up for approval tonight, it is just to provide Council with updates to the fee schedule made by staff. Councilmember Brown asked if our fee schedule aligns with the fee schedules for other towns our size. Ms. Worley said the current fees do not align, however the updated fees in the schedule do align with towns of a similar size. Councilmember McGowan asked about the changes in animal registration fees and Town Administrator Worley said the new changes are that the fees differ based on if the animal is spayed or neutered or not. Councilmember Brown asked for clarification of exotic animals. Ms. Worley said the animal does have to be legal within the state but examples of exotic animals a resident may own are snakes, chameleons, and iguanas. Mayor Byrd asked Council to review the changes listed in the schedule and to bring back any questions or suggested changes.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT – Sherry Hudson:

Finance Officer Sherry Hudson referenced the financials for the month ending October 2022 in Council's packets and asked if there were any questions.

Review of Financial Statements – October 2022:

Mayor Byrd asked if there are any items that aren't where they should be at this time during the fiscal year. Ms. Hudson said a budget amendment will be brought to Council next month and that will clean up any items that need to be fixed. She also said the audit has not yet been submitted but it is very close to being finished.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT – Wendy Oldham

Development Compliance Officer Wendy Oldham referenced the Planning Department report and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Brown asked about the horse farm on Powhatan Road and Mrs. Oldham said she received a sketch from W. E. Blackmon, and she thinks the horse farm will be feasible on the property. She said a proper submittal will be required before she can review and consider the possibility of the horse farm.

Call Public Hearing – Wilson's Mills Code of Ordinances Update:

Mrs. Oldham said there are some changes she is requesting to change in the Code of Ordinances and in order to make the changes there needs to be a public hearing called for next month. She said the changes are highlighted in Council's packets and they would allow chickens to be owned but would not allow roosters. Councilmember Brown asked why we are changing, and Mrs. Oldham said there are a lot of people in town who currently have chickens and are using the chickens and their eggs as a way to feed their families. She said Code Enforcement would be sure to keep an eye on the properties with chickens to make sure there are no roosters.

Councilmember McGowan asked if there is a minimum lot size allowed for chickens and Mrs. Oldham said only properties zoned SFR1, SFR2, and SFR3 are allowed to have chickens.

A motion was made by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Councilmember Tim Brown to call a public hearing on December 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Wilson's Mills Elementary School cafeteria to discuss the Wilson's Mills Code of Ordinances Update. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Rezone – 200 Powhatan Road

Mrs. Oldham said a public hearing for this property was supposed to be held tonight but after speaking with Town Attorney Du Sablon, he feels that changes need to be made to the ordinance from a legal standpoint. She requested Council send the rezone request back to Planning Board and address it next month.

Motion by Councilmember David McGowan and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem JC Triplett to refer the rezone of 200 Powhatan Road back to the Planning Board due to lack of statement of consistency and reasonableness based upon the Town's Future Land Use Plan and Map. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Tim Brown asked if these are the same owners as the surrounding lots. Mrs. Oldham stated these are different owners.

Discussion of Rezone – 366 Powhatan Road

Mrs. Oldham said the Attorney Du Sablon also advised to reword this ordinance and requested it be sent back to the Planning Board.

Motion by Councilmember Tim Brown seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to refer the rezone of 366 Powhatan Road back to the Planning Board due to lack of statement of consistency and reasonableness based upon the Town's Future Land Use Plan and Map. Motion carried unanimously.

EVENTS REPORT – Emily Matthews

Events Coordinator Emily Matthews said this year instead of calling the town Christmas event "Christmas Tree Parade" we are calling it "Tinsel Tree Lane." She said the kickoff event will be on Friday December 2nd and there will be lots of activities for families.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Williams

Chief Williams referenced the Police Department report and asked if there were any questions.

Chief Williams said most of the accidents in October were due to the construction of Highway 70. Councilmember McGowan expressed concerns about the number of accidents and asked if there are signs, we can put up to hopefully avoid the accidents.

School Resource Officer Grant

Chief Williams said he recently spoke with Johnston County school administration, and they want to equip all schools with a school resource officer. He stated it is the decision of each municipality how to pay the officer, but it will be a full-time position with benefits. He said the officer will work with the school for the school year of 10 months and would be free to work with the Police Department outside of that. Town Administrator Worley said all details will be detailed in the Memorandum of Understanding and Council can make changes to the MOU if desired.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan for Chief Williams to gather more information about the grant and bring it back to Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Vehicle Report

Chief referenced the vehicle report given to Council. He said most of the cars are in good condition. The only vehicle with any issues with car 12 but it is used mainly for flatiron and the school. Chief said the department will need a spare vehicle soon. Two vehicles were ordered in April of this year and have not arrived yet due to delays in manufacturing. Chief stated 2 new full time officers were hired in July of this year but currently they are having to share vehicles

with other officers which is causing some vehicles to run 24 hours nonstop. Mayor Byrd asked when the vehicles that were ordered will arrive, and Chief said they are scheduled to arrive within the next week.

Councilmember McGowan asked if flatiron is taking care of any expenses related to the officers working the construction on highway 70. Chief said they aren't taking care of any expenses, they are just paying the officers the hourly rate.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to keep vehicle 12 for use in the department as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Patrick Moore

Public Works Supervisor Patrick Moore referenced the Public Works report in Council's packets and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Brown asked for an update on the dog park. Mr. Moore said all land has been cleared and he will work with Town Administrator Worley to get the layout taken care of and then we can accept bids for the fencing.

Councilmember McGowan asked about the town sign at Main Street and Wilson's Mills Road and asked if it will be fixed. Mr. Moore said it will be repainted and the sign by Bartlett Milling will be moved closer to the road so it is more visible.

Councilmember McGowan asked why town vehicles are parked in the grass rather than in the parking spaces by the town hall building. Ms. Worley said the police cars and other town vehicles have been parked in the grass to free up more parking for employees and any visitors at town hall.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

Councilmember Tim Brown thanked the Planning Board for all the work they do for the Town and reviewing items before they come to Council.

2nd OPEN FORUM

Mayor Byrd opened the 2nd Public Forum at 7:57pm.

With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Byrd closed the 2nd Open Forum at 7:58pm.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilmember Tim Brown and seconded by Councilmember David McGowan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Fleta A Byrd
FLETA BYRD, Mayor

ATTEST:

Emily A. Matthews
EMILY MATTHEWS
Deputy Clerk